WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is FALA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the ligand is a peptide or a peptidomimetic.

3. The conjugate of claim 2, wherein the peptidomimetic is a peptoid.

4. The conjugate of any of claims 1-3, wherein the ligand specifically binds to a receptor selected from the group consisting of:
   the gastrin (cholecystokinin B (CCKB)) receptor,
   the cholecystokinin A (CCKA) receptor,
   the somatostatin receptor,
   the gastrin-releasing peptide (GRP) receptor,
   the substance P (neurokinin 1 (NK1)) receptor,
   the guanylin receptor, and
   the vasoactive intestinal peptide 1 (VIP-1) receptor.

5. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:
   LGPQGPPHLVADPSKKQGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDF (gastrin-34) (SEQ ID NO: 5),
   an N-terminal truncated derivative of gastrin-34, and
   W(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

6. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:
   D(SfY)MGWMDF (SEQ ID NO: 7),
   D(SfY)(Nle)GW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 8), and
   EEEAYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO:20).

7. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:
   VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of
VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9), and
WAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 10).

8. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

AGCKNFFWKTFTSC (SEQ ID NO: 11), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded, and

FCFWKTCT(OH) (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded.

9. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13) and
an analog of RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13).

10. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

11. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

12. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the first and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded,

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the second and fifth C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the third and sixth C residues are disulfide bonded.

13. The conjugate of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQMAVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 17) and
HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQ(Nle)AVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 18).

14. The conjugate of any of claims 1-13, wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of:

cemadotin,
a derivative of cemadotin,
a derivative of hemiasterlin,
esperamicin C,
neocarzinostatin,
maytansinoid DM1,
7-chloromethyl-10,11 methylenedioxy-camptothecin,
rhizoxin, and
the halichondrin B analog, ER-086526.

15. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is VLALA (SEQ ID NO: 2).

16. The conjugate of claim 15, wherein the ligand is a peptide or a peptidomimetic.

17. The conjugate of claim 16, wherein the peptidomimetic is a peptoid.

18. The conjugate of any of claims 15-17, wherein the ligand specifically binds to a receptor selected from the group consisting of:

the gastrin (CCKB) receptor,
the CCKA receptor,
the somatostatin receptor,
the GRP receptor,
the substance P (NK1) receptor,
the guanylin receptor, and
the VIP-1 receptor.

19. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

LGPQGPPHLVADPSKKQGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDF (gastrin-34) (SEQ ID NO: 5),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of gastrin-34, and

W(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

20. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

D(SfY)MGWMDF (SEQ ID NO: 7),

D(SfY)(Nle)GW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 8), and

EEEAYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 20).

21. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9), and

WAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 10).

22. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

AGCKNFFWKTFTSC (SEQ ID NO: 11), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded, and

FCFWKTCT(OH) (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded.

23. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13) and

an analog of RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13).

24. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

25. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

26. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the first and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded,

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the second and fifth C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the third and sixth C residues are disulfide bonded.

27. The conjugate of claim 18, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQMAVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 17) and
HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQ(Nle)AVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 18).

28. The conjugate of any of claims 15-27, wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of:

cemadotin,
a derivative of cemadotin,
a derivative of hemiasterlin,
esperamicin C,
neocarzinostatin,
maytansinoid DM1,
7-chloromethyl-10,11 methylenedioxy-camptothecin,
rhizoxin, and

the halichondrin B analog, ER-086526.

29. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agents, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

LGPQGPPHLVADPSKKQGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDF (gastrin-34) (SEQ ID NO: 5),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of gastrin-34, and

W(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

30. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

D(SfY)MGWMDF (SEQ ID NO: 7),

D(SfY)(Nle)GW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 8), and

EEEAYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 20).

31. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9), and

WAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 10).

32. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

AGCKNFFWKTFTSC (SEQ ID NO: 11), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded, and

FCFWKTCT(OH) (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded.

33. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13) and
an analog of RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13).

34. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

35. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

36. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the first and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded,

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the second and fifth C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the third and sixth C residues are disulfide bonded.

37. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALAL (SEQ ID NO: 3), and wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQMAVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 17) and
HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQ(Nle)AVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 18).

38. The conjugate of any of claims 29-37, wherein the cytotoxic agent, is selected from the group consisting of:

cemadotin,
a derivative of cemadotin,
a derivative of hemiasterlin,
esperamicin C,
neocarzinostatin,
maytansinoid DM1,
7-chloromethyl-10,11 methylenedioxy-camptothecin,
rhizoxin, and
the halichondrin B analog, ER-086526.

39. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

LGPQGPPHLVADPSKKQGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDF (gastrin-34) (SEQ ID NO: 5),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of gastrin-34, provided that the derivative is not AYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 19), and

W(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

40. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

D(SfY)MGWMDF (SEQ ID NO: 7),
D(SfY)(Nle)GW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 8), and
EEEAYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 20).

41. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9),

an N-terminal truncated derivative of VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9), and

WAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 10).

42. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

AGCKNFFWKTFTSC (SEQ ID NO: 11), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded, and

FCFWKTCT(OH) (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded.

43. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13) and

an analog of RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13).

44. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

45. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

46. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the first and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded,

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the second and fifth C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the third and sixth C residues are disulfide bonded.

47. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ALALA (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQMAVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 17) and
HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQ(Nle)AVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 18).

48. The conjugate of any of claims 39-47, wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of:

cemadotin,
a derivative of cemadotin,
a derivative of hemiasterlin,
esperamicin C,
neocarzinostatin,
maytansinoid DM1,
7-chloromethyl-10,11 methylenedioxy-camptothecin,
rhizoxin, and
the halichondrin B analog, ER-086526.

49. A conjugate comprising a ligand, a linker, and a cytotoxic agent, in which the linker is ChaLALA (SEQ ID NO: 21), ChaChaLAL (SEQ ID NO: 22), NalChaLAL (SEQ ID NO: 23) or NalLALA (SEQ ID NO: 24).

50. The conjugate of claim 49, wherein the ligand is a peptide or a peptidomimetic.

51. The conjugate of claim 50, wherein the peptidomimetic is a peptoid.

52. The conjugate of any of claims 49-51, wherein the ligand specifically binds to a receptor selected from the group consisting of:

the gastrin (cholecystokinin B (CCKB)) receptor,
the cholecystokinin A (CCKA) receptor,
the somatostatin receptor,

the gastrin-releasing peptide (GRP) receptor,
the substance P (neurokinin 1 (NK1)) receptor,
the guanylin receptor, and
the vasoactive intestinal peptide 1 (VIP-1) receptor.

53. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

LGPQGPPHLVADPSKKQGPWLEEEEEAYGWMDF (gastrin-34) (SEQ ID NO: 5),
an N-terminal truncated derivative of gastrin-34, and
W(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 6).

54. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

D(SfY)MGWMDF (SEQ ID NO: 7),
D(SfY)(Nle)GW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO: 8), and
EEEAYGW(Nle)DF (SEQ ID NO:20).

55. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9),
an N-terminal truncated derivative of
VPLPAGGGTVLTKMYPRGNHWAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 9), and
WAVGHLM (SEQ ID NO: 10).

56. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

AGCKNFFWKTFTSC (SEQ ID NO: 11), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded, and
FCFWKTCT(OH) (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which the two C residues are disulfide bonded.

57. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13) and
an analog of RPLPQQFFGLM (SEQ ID NO: 13).

58. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

PGTCEICAYAACTGC (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

59. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the first and third C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NDDCELCVACTGCL (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which the second and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded.

60. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the first and fourth C residues are disulfide bonded,

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the second and fifth C residues are disulfide bonded, and

NYCCELCCNPACTGCF (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which the third and sixth C residues are disulfide bonded.

61. The conjugate of claim 52, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of:

HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQMAVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 17) and
HSDALFTDNYTRLRLQ(Nle)AVKKYLNSILNG (SEQ ID NO: 18).

62. The conjugate of any of claims 49-61, wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of:

cemadotin,
a derivative of cemadotin,
a derivative of hemiasterlin,
esperamicin C,
neocarzinostatin,

maytansinoid DM1,
7-chloromethyl-10,11 methylenedioxy-camptothecin,
rhizoxin, and
the halichondrin B analog, ER-086526.

63. A composition comprising the conjugate of any of claims 1-14 and a carrier.

64. A composition comprising the conjugate of any of claims 15-28 and a carrier.

65. A composition comprising the conjugate of any of claims 29-38 and a carrier.

66. A composition comprising the conjugate of any of claims 39-48 and a carrier.

67. A composition comprising the conjugate of any of claims 49-62 and a carrier

68. A method of delivering a cytotoxic agent in a cell-specific manner, which method comprises administering the conjugate of any of claims 1-14 to a collection of cells comprising a receptor to which the ligand of the conjugate binds, whereupon the cytotoxic agent is administered to the cells in a cell-specific manner.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein the cells are *in vivo*.

70. A method of delivering a cytotoxic agent in a cell-specific manner, which method comprises administering the conjugate of any of claims 15-28 to a collection of cells comprising a receptor to which the ligand of the conjugate binds, whereupon the cytotoxic agent is administered to the cells in a cell-specific manner.

71. The method of claim 70, wherein the cells are *in vivo*.

72. A method of delivering a cytotoxic agent in a cell-specific manner, which method comprises administering the conjugate of any of claims 29-38 to a collection of cells comprising a receptor to which the ligand of the conjugate binds, whereupon the cytotoxic agent is administered to the cells in a cell-specific manner.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein the cells are *in vivo*.

74. A method of delivering a cytotoxic agent in a cell-specific manner, which method comprises administering the conjugate of any of claims 39-48 to a collection of cells comprising a receptor to which the ligand of the conjugate binds, whereupon the cytotoxic agent is administered to the cells in a cell-specific manner.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein the cells are *in vivo*.

76. A method of delivering a cytotoxic agent in a cell-specific manner, which method comprises administering the conjugate of any of claims 49-62 to a collection of cells comprising a receptor to which the ligand of the conjugate binds, whereupon the cytotoxic agent is administered to the cells in a cell-specific manner.

77. The method of claim 76, wherein the cells are *in vivo*.

78. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, which method comprises administering a cancer-treating effective amount of the conjugate of any of claims 1-14 to the mammal, whereupon the mammal is treated for cancer.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein the cancer is cancer of the lung, stomach, colon, breast, or pancreas.

80. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, which method comprises administering a cancer-treating effective amount of the conjugate of any of claims 15-28 to the mammal, whereupon the mammal is treated for cancer.

81. The method of claim 80, wherein the cancer is cancer of the lung, stomach, colon, breast, or pancreas.

82. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, which method comprises administering a cancer-treating effective amount of the conjugate of any of claims 29-38 to the mammal, whereupon the mammal is treated for cancer.

83. The method of claim 82, wherein the cancer is cancer of the lung, stomach, colon, breast, or pancreas.

84. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, which method comprises administering a cancer-treating effective amount of the conjugate of any of claims 39-48 to the mammal, whereupon the mammal is treated for cancer.

85. The method of claim 84, wherein the cancer is cancer of the lung, stomach, colon, breast, or pancreas.

86. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, which method comprises administering a cancer-treating effective amount of the conjugate of any of claims 49-62 to the mammal, whereupon the mammal is treated for cancer.

87. The method of claim 86, wherein the cancer is cancer of the lung, stomach, colon, breast, or pancreas.